

Wednesday, July 15th, 2009

Brief report on the geological setting and character of Reedy Springs.

The area contains a central high flat sandy and reed vegetated platform with clear water escaping from several ponds and oozing radially to wet the surrounding soils that support fresh reed meadows. To one side this water forms a stream that joins an older meandering gully that was a more active stream channel in the distant past. This active springs mound is some 3-4 m thick and overlies a thick mudstone sequence with large (0.5 to 1m diam) carbonate concretions, some with cone-in-cone structures. The consolidated nature and lithology of this basement suggests a Cretaceous age through which faults have allowed the upward passage of artesian waters from some depth. The overlying sands are then of Tertiary age, with an increase in permeability allowing free flow of the spring waters. A discontinuous hard ferruginous crust sits on the Cretaceous-Tertiary unconformity.

Nearby areas with mature trees appear to have been spring sites in the past, and are now dry and degraded. They contain stream calcareous(?) tuffas with plant and reed impressions. Aboriginal stone chips are scattered over these surfaces indicating long occupation of this watered area.

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